

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Continuation
Application of : Reiley et al. Examiner: J. Woo
Serial No. : 08/986,876 Group Art Unit: 3731
Filed : December 8, 1997
For : Systems and Methods Using Expandable Bodies to Push Apart Cortical Bone Surfaces

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The Examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement that accompanies this amendment. The Statement makes of record references cited by the Examiner in the parent case.

Please amend the application prior to the first Office Action and calculation of filing fees as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-15.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Cross-Related Application paragraph beginning on Page 1, Line 4 as follows in clean form (the amended paragraph is also presented attached in marked-up form);

Clean Version of Amended Paragraph

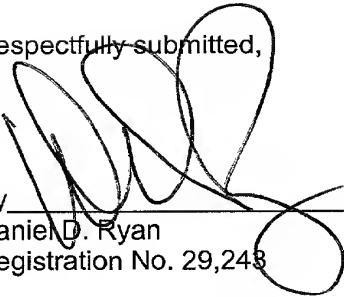
This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/986,876, filed 8 December 1997 and entitled "Systems and Methods Using Expandable Bodies to Push Apart Cortical Bone Surfaces," which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/871,114, filed June 9, 1997 and entitled "Systems and Methods for Treatment of Fractured or Diseased Bone Using Expandable Bodies," which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/659,678, filed June 5, 1996, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/485,394, filed June 7, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/188,224, filed January 26, 1994 entitled, "Improved Inflatable Device For Use In Surgical Protocol Relating To Fixation Of Bone."

Marked-Up Version of Amended Paragraph

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/986,876, filed 8 December 1997 and entitled "Systems and Methods Using Expandable Bodies to Push Apart Cortical Bone Surfaces," which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/871,114, filed June 9, 1997 and entitled "Systems and Methods for Treatment of Fractured or Diseased Bone Using Expandable Bodies," which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/659,678, filed June 5, 1996, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/485,394, filed June 7, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/188,224, filed January 26, 1994 entitled, "Improved Inflatable Device For Use In Surgical Protocol Relating To Fixation Of Bone."

Serial No. 08/986,876
Preliminary Amendment

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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